

Bringing a pastor and community leader from the district to Washington, DC, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) introduced Pastor Herbert Brooks of St. John Baptist Church in Joliet as the United States House of Representatives' guest Chaplin today, to give the opening prayer of the day for Congress.

"I was proud to recommend and introduce Pastor Brooks as today's guest Chaplin because of the tremendous work he has done for our community," said Halvorson. "Pastor Brooks is not just a leader of his congregation, he is a husband, father, and grandfather, and an outspoken advocate for his constituents on the Will County Board. He represents so much of what makes our district special, and I am glad that he could join us to give such a moving prayer this morning."

Having served as Pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Joliet for twenty years, Pastor Herbert Brooks also serves as the President of the Joliet Ecumenical Clergy Association, a member of the Silver Cross Hospital Community Commission Council, and represents the 8th County Board District on the Will County Board. Members of Congress are only allotted one invitation every two years to invite a guest Chaplin from their districts.

"Being invited to Washington DC by Congresswoman Halvorson to give the opening prayer in the U.S. House is truly a great honor," said Pastor Herb Brooks, Jr. "This is a tremendous honor for myself, my congregation, and my community, and I want to thank Congresswoman Halvorson for making it possible."

Since the days of the Continental Congress, every day of session for the U.S. House of Representatives begins with an opening prayer, usually given by the House Chaplin.